

**Model Aquatic Health Code
Operator Training Technical Committee**

**Conference Call Minutes
September 30, 2008**

Members Present: Dennis Berkshire, Tracynda Davis, John Whitmore, Greg Stockton, Colleen Maitoza, Michele Hlavsa, Tom Donaldson, Carl Ralph, Mark Pabst, Doug Sackett, Lee Tate

Members Absent: Wayne Crokus, Lorraine Forston, Dean Hyatt, Kay Smiley

1. Scientific data: Johnston and Kinziger (Int J Aquat Res and Ed 2007;1:18–33) compared pools operated by certified and noncertified pool operators and found that pools operated by certified pool operators were significantly better in terms of operation and compliance. CDC analysis of national pool inspection data (MMWR 2003;52:513–6) indicates that wading/kiddie pools and hotel/motel pools contribute a high percentage of identified pool code violations.

Sacramento County provides a free ½-day workshop on pool operation for maintenance personnel working at hotels, motels, apartment complexes, etc. Anecdotally speaking, it appears that the number of violations for given pools decreases after those responsible for operating them complete this course.

2. Criteria for requiring pool operator: Should the technical committee (TC) use bodies/gallon/day to delineate what knowledge and skills are required of a pool operator? Should the TC target pool types that historically have a high number of violations? The TC must focus on what is needed versus the feasibility of implementation. The TC must develop scientifically based recommendations when possible. The jurisdiction reviewing the MAHC will decide what will be implemented. Should the TC require a minimum amount of time for each essential component covered in operator training? Learning outcomes are paramount. The TC agreed that there needs to be some minimal level of competency for anyone who operates any pool. What standards need to be met by the pool operator?

3. Assessing competency: The TC agrees assessing competency should include testing knowledge and practical skill and proposed a two-tiered assessment, which includes verifying skill levels at a pool. The FDA model food code has food handlers demonstrate skill levels. Should the TC develop a checklist of questions, which assess food handler's practical skills? Other options include that a third party assesses pool operators' skills or pool operators provide video-taped evidence.

4. Next Steps: Dennis Berkshire will compile the skill requirement portions of the straw man submitted by TC members. Tracynda Davis and Doug Sackett will also forward documents to the TC. The TC's next meeting/conference call will be held during the World Aquatics Health Conference in Colorado Springs, CO on October 16, 2008 at 5:00–6:00 PM Mountain Standard Time. Check the posted schedule at conference registration desk for location details. The following conference call will be on October 28, 2008 at 3:30 PM Eastern Standard Time.